



Doc. 13828
23 June 2015

Ending cyberdiscrimination and online hate

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Marit MAIJ and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Every day, countless individuals are targeted by online hate. Inflammatory and hateful statements are ubiquitous in comments forums following news items on migrants, Roma, Muslims, LGBT persons and persons with disabilities; women politicians are subjected to online harassment; racist groups proliferate on social networks.

The Internet both creates a sense of anonymity and facilitates encounters between people expressing similar views. The authors of online abuse thus feel vindicated, while their targets are exposed to discrimination and hatred.

Attacking people because of their innermost or inalienable characteristics denies their humanity. Hate speech is also prohibited by law. But prosecuting online hate is difficult: its authors may be hard to identify, international borders are often crossed, and individual victims do not always come forward to complain.

If the flow of online hate is not stopped, generations will grow up believing hate speech is just a part of life; very young children are already exposed to it every day. The Council of Europe is already engaged in combating this phenomenon, through legal instruments as well as initiatives such as the No Hate Speech movement and No Hate Parliamentary Alliance. Some media outlets and internet service providers are also taking action in this field.

It is time to take a concerted look at cyber discrimination and online hate and the efforts being made to counter them. The Parliamentary Assembly should identify good practices and develop concrete proposals to strengthen the work of the Council of Europe, member States and other key actors, in order to put an end to such abuse.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed¹:

MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC
ARIB Khadija, Netherlands, SOC
AZMANI Malik, Netherlands, ALDE
BACKER Joris, Netherlands, ALDE
BIGOT Jacques, France, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
ČATOVIĆ Marija Maja, Montenegro, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GUZENINA Maria, Finland, SOC
HAIDER Monica, Sweden, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
IORDACHE Florin, Romania, SOC
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
JONICA Snežana, Montenegro, SOC
KOMŠIĆ Željko, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MESTERHÁZY Attila, Hungary, SOC
MILADINOVIĆ Stefana, Serbia, SOC
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC
MUTTONEN Christine, Austria, SOC
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
NOONE Catherine, Ireland, EPP/CD
OBRADOVIĆ Žarko, Serbia, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PARVIAINEN Olli-Poika, Finland, NR
PÂSLARU Florin Costin, Romania, SOC
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
RAWERT Mechthild, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHMIDT Frithjof, Germany, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
ŠEHOVIĆ Damir, Montenegro, SOC
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

1. **SOC: Socialist Group**

EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group